

## **Principle 2: Prevention and Education**

**Goal 1:** Increase knowledge and awareness of prevention, testing, and care of viral hepatitis among Indiana residents.

- *Objective 1:* Develop and disperse educational and training programs from state and local health departments regarding viral hepatitis disease, risk factors, and disease management.
  - Action Items:
    1. Provide education and training opportunities for HCPs on the necessity of hepatitis screening, interpretation of tests, referrals to specialists, and vaccination among high risk populations.
    2. Educate social workers and health care personnel to assist patients and their family members to cope during care and treatment of viral hepatitis therefore, reducing the stigma of persons diagnosed with hepatitis B and C.
    3. Provide education and training opportunities for school nurses through the Indiana Department of Education (DOE) so Indiana children can be educated in all grade levels on high risk behaviors.
    4. Post cases studies for education and training to HCPs on the web, regarding disease management and treatment for chronic hepatitis.
- *Objective 2:* Develop culturally sensitive and age-appropriate educational information about viral hepatitis disease, risk factors, and management.
  - Action Items:
    1. Provide quick fact sheets containing concise information and guidance on the ISDH web site, at community health events, and through additional venues as identified.

2. Focus on peer education for adolescents and young adults (19-25 age group is high risk population for hepatitis C) [www.hepcchallenge.org](http://www.hepcchallenge.org) .
3. Encourage the DOEs bloodborne pathogen curriculum in schools.

*Objective 3:* Collaborate between ISDH, LHDs, Indiana Chapter of the American Liver Foundation and community organizations to develop statewide educational events.

- Action Item:

1. Issue media releases and ISDH Web site announcements regarding viral hepatitis events.
  - Hepatitis Prevention Awareness month (May).
  - Annual Indiana HepFest.
  - World Hepatitis Awareness day (May 19th).
  - Regional viral hepatitis awareness and education events.
  - Prescription of the month (by ISDH State Health Commissioner).

- *Objective 4:* Maintain open communication with research entities regarding development of new treatments and vaccinations.

- Action Item:

1. Invite the research entities to the annual Hepatitis Summit.

**Goal 2:** Increase awareness about viral hepatitis among high risk groups with the use of educational opportunities and materials.

Healthy People 2010, CDC, and the ISDH have identified the following groups as most at risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C: injection drug users (IDUs), men who have sex with men (MSMs), persons with a current sexually transmitted disease (STD), persons with multiple sex partners, long-term hemodialysis patients, incarcerated persons, and household and sexual partners of infected persons.

- *Objective 1:* The AVHPC will work with internal and external partners to provide and develop as needed, age-specific, culturally appropriate viral hepatitis prevention information materials and training and education opportunities targeted to high risk individuals through a variety of settings.

- Action Items:

1. Identify partners serving individuals at high risk and establish a method of information distribution appropriate to each at risk population.
2. The AVHPC will participate in health fairs and community events targeted to high risk and the general population.

**Goal 3:** Provide education programs for food handlers regarding risks of transmission and prevention of hepatitis A, including the benefit of vaccination.

- *Objective 1:* Provide food safety awareness, education, and training to food service staff, students, faculty, and parents including effective hand washing practices.

- Action Items:

1. Identify partners who provide culinary education and collaborate to provide ongoing education regarding food safety and effective hand washing practices.
2. Provide the ISDH Retail Food Code regarding symptomatic food handlers and a Hepatitis A Fact Sheet to entities applying for a liquor license.  
[www.in.gov/isdh/21367.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/21367.htm)
3. Create a presentation available to educate food handlers on HAV infection and associated prevention measures.
4. Collaborate with the Restaurant and Hospitality Association of Indiana (ServSafe and Education First) during training of certified food handlers.

[www.indianarestaurants.org/](http://www.indianarestaurants.org/)

5. Cooperate with additional trade association and training organizations in their efforts with the certification of food handlers listed at;

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/21375.htm>

6. Determine if hepatitis A vaccination of food handlers is cost effective in Indiana.

**Goal 4:** Maintain or decrease the Indiana incidence of acute hepatitis A and B cases through immunization.

- *Objective 1:* Continue and enhance the availability of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and the 317 Immunization grant program.
  - Action Item:
    1. Identify state funding sources to support immunization services.
- *Objective 2:* Incorporate hepatitis A and B immunizations for Indiana residents diagnosed with hepatitis C infection as a standard of care.
  - Action Item:
    1. Provide education and training to health care providers around the benefits and risks associated with incorporating hepatitis A and B vaccinations into the standard of care of those living with hepatitis C infection.
- *Objective 3:* The ISDH will develop adult immunization policies and prioritize sites to incorporate hepatitis A and B immunizations in existing programs.
  - Action Items:
    1. Identify state funding sources to support immunization services.

2. The Immunization Program will continue to supply federal and state purchased vaccine to those enrolled in VFC and 317 programs.
- *Objective 4:* Encourage the use of the Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) among HCPs to record and track hepatitis A and B immunizations.
    - Action Items;
      1. Educate HCPs to the benefits of utilizing the CHIRP system to track immunizations for all patients.
      2. Require public sector sites that receive vaccine from the ISDH Immunization Program to use CHIRP to record and track patient immunizations.

**Goal 5:** Maintain the AVHPC position and Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program at ISDH to enhance viral hepatitis prevention and control activities.

- *Objective 1:* Maintain federal funding.
  - Action Items:
    1. Complete federal interim and annual progress reports as indicated.
    2. Complete all other federal applications for funding as indicated.
- *Objective 2:* Establish state funding supporting the Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program.
  - Action Items:
    1. Support the establishment of a state line item funding viral hepatitis prevention.
    2. Support legislation for the establishment of a state line item funding viral hepatitis prevention.

3. Provide ongoing support for maintaining state funding for viral hepatitis prevention.
- *Objective 3:* Investigate and apply for grants and other funding opportunities supporting viral hepatitis prevention.
    - Action Item:
      1. ISDH viral hepatitis staff will investigate and apply for all appropriate funds supporting viral hepatitis prevention.

**Goal 6:** Support HIV/AIDS, STD, substance abuse, mental health, correctional, and primary care facilities in identifying and offering counseling and testing for HBV and HCV to Indiana residents.

- *Objective 1:* Establish and enhance current training and education opportunities for providers of HIV/AIDS, STD, substance abuse, mental health, correction, and primary care facilities in identifying and offering HBV and HCV counseling and testing to Indiana residents.
  - Action Items:
    1. Establish and enhance partnerships with entities with the ability to provide counseling and testing for HBV and HCV.
    2. Require and provide training and education to partners around integrating viral hepatitis counseling and testing and serology interpretation into current practices.
    3. Monitor partners offering counseling and testing of viral hepatitis to ensure quality and appropriateness of testing.

**Goal 7:** Establish a needle exchange and disposal programs to reduce viral hepatitis and other bloodborne, illness causing pathogens.

- *Objective 1:* The ISDH HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis program will identify and partner with stakeholders in support of needle exchange and disposal programs.

- Action Items:
  1. Coordination of a comprehensive and concise message around needle exchange and disposal programs.
  2. The partners/stakeholders will educate state policy makers with scientifically established research that indicate that needle exchange and disposal program are effective.

**Goal 8:** Early prevention of infant and childhood acquisition of HBV.

- *Objective 1:* Test all pregnant females for hepatitis B surface antigen HBsAg before delivery.
  - Action Items:
    1. Test once during the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester and test high risk women again in the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester with every pregnancy.
    2. Educate HCPs regarding the current CDC guidelines for management for perinatal hepatitis B.
    3. Ensure the public health case management regarding HBsAg positive pregnant female is conducted.
- *Objective 2:* Administer HBIG at birth to infants born to HBsAg positive mothers.
  - Action Items:
    1. Ensure HCF policies and HCPs standing orders require administration of HBIG and 1<sup>st</sup> dose of hepatitis B vaccine.
    2. Encourage HCF policies to include quality control for HCPs that do not follow the recommended guidelines.
- *Objective 3:* Ensure all newborns receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine before hospital discharge.
  - Action Items:
    1. Ensure HCF policies and HCPs standing orders require administration of 1<sup>st</sup> dose of hepatitis B vaccine to all newborns, regardless of the mother's status.

2. Document the vaccination in the medical record and Indiana immunization registry, if available.
  3. Remind HCPs to provide vaccine information sheet (VIS) on hepatitis B and document the distribution.
  4. The hospital shall provide the vaccination record upon release.
- *Objective 4:* Ensure sharing of vaccination information between HCPs and care givers to ensure the infant completes the hepatitis B immunization series.
    - Action Items:
      1. The HCF shall enter the birth dose and the HCP shall enter each additional dose into CHIRP.
      2. HCP will update the vaccination record and provide to the care givers at each dose.
      3. Educate the care givers of timely completion of the vaccination series.